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FROM: Guatemala City DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO: Secretary of State BUREAU OF

NO: 956, June 11, 5 p.m. AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Control: 5954

Rec'd: June 12, 1954
12:19 a.m.

With reference to Department's telegram 1194, Secretary's statement was excellent. Unfortunately, only EL IMPARCIAL carried story. I appreciate Department's reluctance to take unilateral action re trade agreements. My suggestion was based on local situation and while admitting it is calculated risk, such action could conceivably cause army to act now and avoid large-scale bloodshed.

I strongly urge Department, in view of suspension constitution protecting individual rights and liberties, that proposed resolution be reconsidered or amended at conference to call for sanctions. Appears to me present form will encourage government while at same time giving it propaganda device for diverting attention from Communist issue to US vs. Guatemala struggle; it will also greatly disappoint local opposition and cause US many headaches before situation resolved. It is not (repeat not) decisive or forthright, and I am afraid it will satisfy no one, including our own public opinion and press.

I should think drastic action taken by local government in recent days, together with the announcement in TRIBUNA POPULAR June 4 that the Communist Party would not (repeat not) take a "step backward" (Embassy despatch 994, June 9) would convince Governments OAR's that Communists dominate policies of Guatemalan Government. As behind Iron Curtain, husbands and sons are disappearing daily and families have no (repeat no) recourse to courts. Situation now a combination of gansterism and Communism.

PEURIFOY

GB:RHF/12

JUN 25 1954

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